

Application No. 09/526,628
Amendment "C" dated August 16, 2004
Reply to Office Action mailed June 2, 2004

REMARKS

The latest Office Action mailed June 2, 2004, considered and rejected claims 23-28, 31, 32, 38-45, 48-51 and 53-58. Each of these claims were rejected at least in part by Ko (U.S. Patent No. 6,486,925). However, as discussed during the interview, Ko does not qualify as prior art. Accordingly, each of the foregoing rejections are now moot. Nevertheless, Applicants maintain that even if Ko is construed to be valid prior art for any reason, Ko fails to anticipate or obviate the claimed invention, either singly or in combination, for at least the reasons that were previously articulated in the last response.

As further discussed during the interview held on August 2, 2004, previously cancelled claims (1-12, 15-22 and 33-37) are now being reintroduced as new claims 59-70, 71-78 and 79-83, respectively. Claims 13-14, 38-39 and 48-50 are also being cancelled at this time. Accordingly, claims 23-28, 40-45, 51, 53-83 now remain pending in this case, of which claims 23, 40, 59, 71, 75, 81 and 84 are the independent claims at issue.

In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 16 day of August 2004.

Respectfully submitted,



RICK D. NYDEGGER
Registration No. 28,651
JENS C. JENKINS
Registration No. 44,803
Attorneys for Applicant

Customer No. 022913

RDN:JCJ:cm
W:\14531\55.1\CM0000003991\001.DOC